

**FORMAT
FOR
2005 CALIFORNIA REGIONAL ECONOMIES PROJECT
TRAINING SESSIONS**

Background

In 2004, the California Regional Economies Project completed a series of reports that provides new insights into the dynamics of California's economy (see www.labor.ca.gov/panel/espcrepindex.htm)

The project produced a unique employment data source, the California Regional Economies Employment (CREE) series, which provides annual County data at the four-digit North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS) level, back to 1990 (see <http://www.calmis.ca.gov/FILE/CREE/CREE.htm>). The project also developed a methodology to analyze the employment series by industry clusters and the nine economic regions defined by the California Economic Strategy Panel. Through a regional perspective, the project describes how the economy is changing, where the changes are concentrated and what catalysts and conditions are causing those changes.

In 2005, the project is translating the methodology into a *User Guide to Regional Clusters of Opportunity*. The user guide will provide methods to analyze the CREE series at the County or multi-County levels. The project will also host three training sessions for local/regional representatives to learn and apply the user guide.

Objective

The objective of the training sessions is to build capacity and expertise in local/regional organizations to analyze the changing economy on a continuous basis. The outcome is to identify changes in employment patterns and regional clusters of opportunity for the purposes of planning, curricula and program development and resource allocation. In addition, another outcome is efficient, coordinated responses by service organizations based on shared information.

Format

There will be three training sessions scheduled in Spring 2005. (Note: There are efforts to schedule additional training sessions beyond June 30, 2005). The training sessions will be held at the Labor Market Information Division, 7000 Franklin Boulevard, Building 1100, Sacramento, CA 95823. The sessions will be scheduled from 9:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M., with a working lunch.

For the initial training sessions, trainees will be organized into teams of 4-6 representatives, with one team from each of the nine economic regions defined by the California Economic Strategy Panel. There will be three teams at each of the three training sessions. The teams will be provided a dedicated workstation to access the CREE series and be coached in the application of the user guide to identify the clusters of opportunity for the region of their choice. The goal of the session is for team members to “learn by doing,” working together to group the data into clusters of opportunity and create a “product” that can continue to be refined and shared with others in the region after team members return home. This product will include:

- a spreadsheet summarizing employment data for the region at the 4-digit NAICS level;
- an initial grouping of clusters of opportunity by the team; and,
- an action plan created by the team to review and refine the clusters of opportunity with others, as well as implement specific steps to use the information for planning, curricula, program development, resource allocation, and/or other purposes.

The trainees will represent organizations such as Local Workforce Investment Boards, economic development organizations, community colleges, County Education Offices, Councils of Government, universities and Labor Market Information Field Offices. The trainees will represent areas of expertise and responsibilities such as economic data analyst, planner, curricula/program developer, research and policy developer and decision-maker.

The trainees will be nominated by Project staff and consultants from lists of individuals who participated in the regional forums held in 2004. The nominees will participate in the final decision to select the regional team. The participants will be required to cover all expenses including lunch. There will be no costs for the training, use of workstations or the user guide.

Outcome

Each team will create their own customized, regional clusters of opportunity “product” for a county or multi-county region (i.e., the NAICS spreadsheet, clusters of opportunity groupings, and action plan for refining and using the information). Each team will also receive the *User Guide to Regional Clusters of Opportunity* as a resource to take home to help refine and implement their customized “product.”